

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 04293 220940Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----076334 220944Z /17

O 220924Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1217
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4293

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (BRZEZINSKI, ZBIGNIEW), KS
SUBJ: BRZEZINSKI VISIT -- ROKG SHIFTS GEARS -- SCHEDULE CHANGES

REF: SEOUL 4283

1. MOFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR PAK SANG-YONG CALLED POLCOUNS FIVE PM MAY 22 TO INFORM HIM THAT CALL AT BLUE HOUSE HAD BEEN CHANGED TO 1100 MAY 25 AND WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY LUNCHEON. CALL ON PRESIDENT WOULD NOW INVOLVE FOLLOWING FROM US SIDE: DR BRZEZINSKI, AMBASSADOR SNEIDER, GENERAL VESSEY, MR HOLBROOKE, MR GLEYSTEN, MR ARMACOST, MR ABRAMOWITZ, AND MR HUNTINGTON. PRESENT ON THE ROK SIDE, IN ADDITION TO THE PRESIDENT, WOULD BE PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER, MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, BLUE HOUSE SECRETARY GENERAL KIM CHUNG-YUM, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS SUH JYONG-CHUL, SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS KIM KYUNGQUWON, AND BLUE HOUSE SENIOR PROTOCOL ADVISOR CHOI KWANG-SOO. WHEN POLCOUNS REMARKED THAT THIS APPEARED TO BE VERY SIMILAR TO THE LINE-UP FOR BREAKFAST, HE WAS ADVISED THAT, AS RESULT OF THE ENLARGED MEETING
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TO BE FOLLOWED BY LUNCH, THE BREAKFAST MEETING WOULD NOT BE HELD.

2. SCHEDULE SHIFT APPEARS TO BE RESULT OF IN-FIGHTING WITHIN THE ROKG. AT DINNER THREE NIGHTS AGO WITH BLUE HOUSE SECRETARY GENERAL KIM CHUNG-YUM AND OTHER SENIOR BLUE HOUSE ADVISORS, AMBASSADOR REMARKED THAT IT WAS

UNFORTUNATE THAT PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE WOULD NOT ALLOW FOR A LUNCHEON WITH DR BRZEZINSKI. SENIOR STAFF SEEM SURPRISED BY THIS STATEMENT SINCE THEIR UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN THAT DR BRZEZINSKI'S PARTY HAD A FIRM DEPARTURE SCHEDULE THAT WOULD NOT ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR LUNCH. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT EMBASSY HAD MADE CLEAR EARLY ON THAT SHOULD LUNCH BE POSSIBLE, SCHEDULE WAS FLEXIBLE. UPSHOT HAS BEEN THAT BLUE HOUSE, IN ADDITION TO RESCHEDULING LUNCH, HAS QUASHED ANY EFFORT BY OTHERS TO UPSTAGE THE PRESIDENT IN ANY MANNER, INCLUDING HOSTING A BREAKFAST.

3. THE SCHEDULE FOR MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND LUNCH NOW APPEARS SOMEWHAT SHORT AND WE HAVE GONE BACK REQUESTING THAT THE MEETING START BY 1030. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE INFORMED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT SINCE THE MORNING OF THE 25TH NOW SEEMS MAGICALLY OPEN, WE WOULD SCHEDULE THE BRIEF COURTESY CALL ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER AT EITHER 0930 OR 1000 HOURS DEPENDING UPON THE STARTING TIME OF THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT.

4. COMMENT: I SEE SOME ADVANTAGE TO THE FORMAT NOW DEVELOPED. FROM PAST EXPERIENCE I BELIEVE THE MEETING FOLLOWED BY LUNCH WILL ALLOW DR BRZEZINSKI AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A PERIOD OF PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH THE PRESIDENT THAT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE UNDER THE EARLIER CONFIDENTIAL

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SCHEDULE. I REGRET THIS ELEVENTH HOUR SHIFT BUT FEEL THAT WE HAVE NO CHOICE WHEN THE PRESIDENT DECIDES TO DISCIPLINE THE TROOPS.
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